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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: N.E. Morrow et al.

Attorney Docket No.: KMOR116839

Application No.: 09/761,340

#3/IDS
L.Nelson
5-24-01

Filed: January 16, 2001

Title: STEP-IN SNOWBOARD BINDING AND BOOT THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

May 17, 2001

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

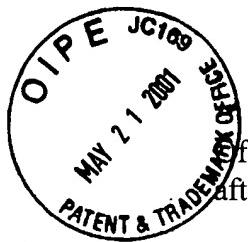
Applicants are aware of the information listed in the attached form that may be material to the prosecution of the above-identified patent application.

1. Copies of the references U1-U4, and F9 - F11 are enclosed for the Examiner's use.
2. This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior Application No. 08/998,863, filed December 29, 1997. The references U5-U95, and F1-F8 listed on the attached form were submitted to and/or cited by the Patent and Trademark Office in this prior application and, therefore, are not required to be provided in this application.
3. A concise explanation of the relevance of document I.D. No. F9 (which is not in the English language), as presently understood by the individual designated under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about its content, is provided as follows:

A snowboard binding has two binding engagers 8 and 9. The first binding engager 8 appears to have a hooking element which engages a rod at a toe portion of a boot as shown in Figure 3A, while the rear engager 9 appears to include a first and a second hook which close upon a recess at either side of a heel portion of a boot when pressure is applied to a middle portion of a spring connecting the hooks.

4. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the national application (other than a CPA), within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, before the mailing date of a first

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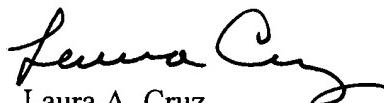


Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1740. This authorization also hereby includes a request for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application. A copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the below date.

Date:

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Michelle R. West

LXC:mrw

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